

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 08528 171711Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----022998 171714Z /41

O 171643Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3940

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T AMMAN 8528

EXDIS

AIDAC

DEPARTMENT PASS J. WHEELER, AID/AA/NE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, EAID, IS, JO, US

SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM WATER RIGHTS - JORDANIAN WRITTEN COMMENTS

REF: (A) AMMAN 8527, (B) AMMAN 8529, (C) AMMAN 8522

1. WRITTEN JORDANIAN RESPONSE COVERING ISRAELI REACTION
TO DRAFT WORKING PAPER ON MAQARIN DAM ISSUES CABLED REF. B.
REF. A REPORTED ON TAUBENBLATT/EMBASSY/AID DISCUSSIONS
WITH GOJ OFFICIALS NOV. 05-17 AND PROVIDED COMMENTS ON
GOJ REACTIONS. REF. C. SETS FORTH PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR
TRANSMITTING JORDANIAN COMMENTS TO ISRAEL AND FOR MEETING
WITH ALON AND KANTOR, ET AL ON NOV. 21 AFTER TAUBENBLATT,
AID/NE/CD RETURNS TO ISRAEL. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY AMMAN
AND TAUBENBLATT COMMENTS ON WRITTEN JORDANIAN
RESPONSE.

2. OVERALL GOJ WRITTEN RESPONSE APPEARS TO BE USEFUL BASIS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 08528 171711Z

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI IN TRYING TO NARROW
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND MEETS POINT WHICH
AMBASSADOR LEWIS AND EMBASSY TEL AVIV HAVE MADE IN THE
PAST, THAT GOJ BE ENCOURAGED TO PRESENT THEIR OWN, WRITTEN
RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED BY ISRAELIS.

3. WE SEE JORDANIAN WRITTEN RESPONSE AS REFLECTION OF

THEIR CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO 25 MCM VERSUS 40 MCM ISSUE, THE WEST BANK STUDY AND THE IDEA OF DIRECT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI. JORDANIANS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THEIR RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WERE THEY TO ENTER INTO DIRECT TECHNICAL TALKS (PRIOR TO GENEVA) DURING PRESENT UNCERTAIN PHASE IN ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND UNDERTAKE WEST BANK STUDY WHICH WOULD ENTAIL SOME COORDINATION WITH ISRAEL. JORDANIAN OFFICIALS FEAR THAT DIRECT TALKS AND WEST BANK STUDY COULD BOOMERANG IF ISRAELIS DID NOT MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEETINGS OR SOMEHOW THEY BECAME KNOWN. WITH RESPECT TO 25 MCM VERSUS 40 MCM ISSUE, GOJ INSISTS THAT GOING BEYOND 25 MCM WOULD RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO MAQARIN DAM PROJECT FEASIBILITY AND MAY RESULT IN ARAB DONORS WHO ARE BEING COUNTED ON TO MAKE LARGE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, ABANDONING THE PROJECT, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WISH TO EXCEED JOHNSTON PLAN 25MCM, A FIGURE WHICH THEY HAVE CLEARLY NOT FORGOTTEN.

4. GOJ FORMULATION OF 17 MCM FIGURE IN TEXT OF WRITTEN RESPONSE IS COUNTERWIEGHT TO GOI REQUEST FOR 40 MCM IN THEIR WRITTEN RESPONSE. ABDULLAH AND ODEH ADVISED THAT 25 MCM IS MAXIMUM FIGURE FOR YARMOUK TRIANGLE WHICH GOJ CANNOT EXCEED. REACHING AGREEMENT ON 25 MCM FIGURE IS MOST IMPORTANT TO GOJ SINCE HARZA FEASIBILITY STUDY MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 08528 171711Z

TO DONORS MEETING IN MARCH 1978 AND WATER AVAILABILITY TO THE TRIANGLE COULD AFFECT PROJECT FEASIBILITY, INCLUDING DAM HEIGHT, COSTS AND DIRECT BENEFITS TO JORDAN.

5. WITH RESPECT TO WEST BANK STUDY, GOJ SEES FEASIBILITY STUDY OF SECOND DAM DOWNSTREAM FROM MAQARIN AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WEST BANK STUDY OR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS AND CONVEYANCE APPROACHES, BECAUSE SECOND DAM WILL PROVIDE PRIMARY BASIS FOR PROVIDING WEST BANK GHOR AND ZOR WATER. GOJ HAS CONCURRED AS FALLBACK POSITION THAT U.S. MIGHT CONTRACT FOR WEST BANK STUDY WHICH U.S. WOULD UNDERTAKE FOR BOTH PARTIES. THIS COULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR REACHING AN UNDERSTANDING ON THIS KEY ISSUE ABOUT WHICH BOTH PARTIES FEEL VERY STRONGLY. SINCE STUDY WAS IN EFFECT U.S. COUNTERPROPOSAL TO KINDLE ISRAELI DESIRE FOR SOME PROGRESS ON WEST BANK, WE BELIEVE IT IS MAXIMUM BOTH PARTIES CAN BE ASKED TO MOVE ON NOW.

6. IN PRESENTING WRITTEN GOJ RESPONSE TO ISRAELIS, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE ABOVE GOJ CONCERNS. WE WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED PROBLEM THOROUGHLY WITH HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOJ, INCLUDING DIRECTLY WITH KING HUSSEIN.

JORDANIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE LEAKS AND EFFECT
ON THEIR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE ARAB WORLD ON THE ONE HAND,
AND ON THE OTHER, SEE NO PRESENT NEED FOR COORDINATION
WITH ISRAELIS THAT CANNOT BE FILLED THROUGH U.S. GOOD
OFFICES. WE PLAN TO STRESS FOR GOI THAT COMPROMISE NOW
ON 25 MCM FIGURE WOULD BE SEEN BY GOJ AS
SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF GOI GOOD WILL. ON SUCH BASIS,
WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO ASSURE GOI THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING
TO CONTINUE TO PRESS GOJ TO UNDERTAKE DIRECT TECHNICAL
TALKS (PARTICULARLY IF GOI CAN ASSURE SECURITY AS IT HAS IN
THE PAST) TO COVER ISSUES SUCH AS ADDASIYE WEIR CONSTRUCTION
AND WATER RELEASE SCHEDULES WHERE FACE-TO-FACE TECHNICAL
CONTACT SEEMS TO US TO BE MORE NECESSARY. WE WILL ALSO
STRESS THAT GOI REVERSION TO 40 MCM FIGURE FOLLOWING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 AMMAN 08528 171711Z

LAST MAY MEETINGS HAS MADE GOJ LOSE CONFIDENCE IN FACT THAT
ISRAEL IS DEALING WITH THE ISSUE IN GOOD FAITH.

7. AFTER MEETING WITH GOI NEXT WEEK, WE PLAN TO REVISE
WORKING PAPER IN ORDER FURTHER TO NARROW DIFFERENCES AND
ATTEMPT TO FIRM UP UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED. REVISION WOULD
BE PRESENTED TO BOTH SIDES IN HOPES OF GAINING THEIR
ACCEPTANCE AS A BASIC AGREEMENT ON THIS.

8. IF DEPARTMENT/AID HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON GOJ PAPER AND
OUR REACTION, WOULD APPRECIATE CABLE PRIOR NOVEMBER 21
MEETING. PLEASE REPEAT INFO CON. GEN. JERUSALEM FOR
TAUBENBLATT.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PAPERS, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, WATER DIVERSION, MAQARIN DAM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN08528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770426-0573
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771150/aaaabpzp.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 48ab3b18-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 AMMAN 8527, 77 AMMAN 8529, 77 AMMAN 8522
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 560693
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAQARIN DAM WATER RIGHTS - JORDANIAN WRITTEN COMMENTS
TAGS: PBOR, EAID, JO, IS
To: STATE TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/48ab3b18-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009